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- m7A*

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-23 Canceled

24. (Currently amended) The spine binder according to Claim ~~[[6]]~~38, wherein the male fastener has a side wall surrounding it which receives the female fastener.

25-26 Canceled

27. (Currently amended) The spine binder according to Claim ~~[[1]]~~38 wherein each ring element further has an interior slot extending substantially more than half the length of said ring elements.

28-29 Canceled

30. (Currently amended). A unitary injection molded polymeric spine binder comprising:

a spine consisting of a longitudinally extending connecting strip,

a series of spaced apart hinge members on said spine, each said member defining a hinge

m7A - consisting of longitudinally extending portions arranged transverse to said spine joined together centrally of their width ~~[[by a web]]~~ along one common longitudinal edge of said spine, each said member having:

a ring arranged substantially transverse to said spine and adapted to define an elongated dorsal hinge comprising a first hinge brace and a second hinge brace connected by said spine, so that the hinge is open when the hinge braces are separated, and the hinge is closed when the hinge braces are brought together; and

a plurality of complementary male and female ring elements, wherein each ring element is a semicircle and comprises a proximal end attached to a hinge brace and a distal end comprising a male fastener for a male ring element and a female fastener that is complementary to the male

fastener for a female ring element, each ring element being attached to one hinge brace and a complementary ring element being attached to the opposing hinge brace, so that the distal ends of the complementary ring elements are separated when the hinge is open, and are engaged to form a loop in cooperation with the hinge when the hinge is closed,

each of said rings having a slot spaced apart from its ends, and

wherein said hinge members of said series are spaced apart along said spine a distance less than the circumference of said ring and are adapted to be pressed together into removably secured engagement when pressure is applied to said spine.

31. (Previously presented) The spine binder according to Claim 30, wherein the ring elements are wider than thick.

32. (Previously presented) The spine binder according to Claim 30 wherein said slot on each ring element further comprises a closed interior slot within the walls of each said ring element.

33. (Previously presented) The spine binder recited in Claims 32 wherein said slot extends substantially more than half the length of said ring element..

34. (Previously presented) The spine binder according to Claim 30, wherein said female fastener has an open side for receiving the male fastener therein.

35. (Previously presented) The spine binder according to Claim 30, wherein the male and female ring elements are interspersed on both hinge braces.

36. (Previously presented) The spine binder recited in Claim 30, wherein all of said hinge member of said series may be closed together to form a loop upon manipulation of said spine.

37. (Previously presented) The spine binder received in Claim 35, wherein such pressure is applied to said spine from the direction of said fasteners.

38. (New) A spine binder comprising:

a spine consisting of a longitudinally extending strip,

a series of spaced apart hinge members on said spine, each said member being transverse to said spine and defining a hinge consisting of longitudinally extending hinge braces joined together centrally of their width along one common longitudinal edge of said spine adapted to define a loop when closed, said hinge member on said spine dividing said strip into longitudinal sections, each said member having:

a first hinge brace and a second hinge brace connected by said spine, such that when the hinge is open said hinge braces are separated, and the hinge is closed when the hinge braces are brought together; and

complementary male and female ring elements,

wherein each ring element have a proximal end attached to a hinge brace and a distal end comprising

a male fastener for a male ring element and a female fastener complementary to the male fastener for a female ring element,

each ring element having a male fastener being attached to one hinge brace and a complementary ring element having a female ring element attached to the opposing hinge brace, such that the distal end of the ring element are separated when the hinge is open, and are engaged to form a loop in cooperation with the hinge when the hinge is closed, and

wherein the distal ends of said ring element nest so that the female fastener surrounds the male fastener and the male fastener is

engaged within and has a wall surrounding the female fastener; and
said ring elements are adapted to be pressed together into removably secured engagement when pressure is applied to the web of said spine, wherein said male and female ring elements may be drawn apart to open the binder to permit reloading of a sheet and closed again by bringing said elements together.